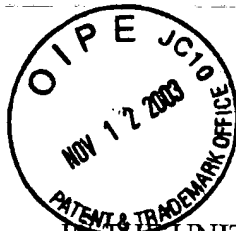


61



Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-400001 / P10337

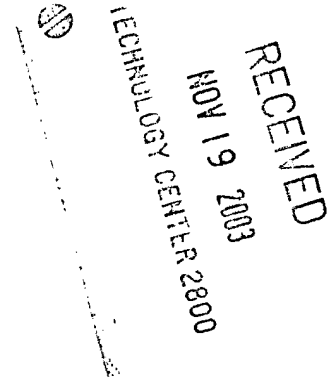
AF/2829

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bradley A. Bloechel
Serial No. : 09/843,606
Filed : April 26, 2001
Title : DEVICE TESTING USING A HOLDING-CIRCUIT

Art Unit : 2829
Examiner : J. Nguyen

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF AUGUST 27, 2003

Claims 1-27 are pending.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for taking the time to discuss the case on November 6, 2003. During the discussion, the Applicant clarified an important difference between the claimed invention and the Motoi reference. In the Motoi reference, an expected output signal is compared to an actual output signal (i.e., output v. output), whereas in the present invention, an output signal is compared with an input signal (i.e., output v. input). The Examiner indicated that he would consider this difference which is described in detail below.

The Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 7-15 are allowed and that claims 19-27 include allowable subject matter.

In view of the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of each of the rejections and allowance of the application.

REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action of August 27, 2003, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 102

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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